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SOLDIERS OF V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION TAKE ON DESERT HEAT FOR 10-MILE RUN

By Spc. Jacy D. Welch
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Mirroring the Army's 20th anniversary 10-mile run in Washington, D.C., Soldiers from V Corps' 1st Infantry Division here came out for their own 10-miler at this base in Northern Iraq October 24.

The Washington run kicked off about seven hours later.

While many of the division's units at home station in Germany put together a team to send to Washington to run, it is impractical for units in Iraq to send teams, said Capt. Dean

Rasmussen of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division Support Command. So Rasmussen thought it would be a good idea to have the run here.



COURTESY 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
Runners from V Corps' 1st Infantry Division compete in a 10-mile run at Forward Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq October 24. The race was designed to mirror the Army's annual 10-mil run in Washington, D.C. the same day.

The captain had the backing and support of units here and the help of Kellogg, Brown and Root employees to chart out and verify a course. While the goal was to register 500 Soldiers, 366 were on hand the morning of the run.

Fifty-eight minutes, 55 seconds later, the first runner crossed the finish line to the beat of the 1st Infantry Division Band. It was Capt. John Broam, commander of A Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation.

When asked why he ran he took on a grueling run in the desert heat of a combat zone, Broam said, "It reminds me of home; one of the things you normally can't do here."

Soldiers celebrated together as they finished the race and claimed bragging rights and refreshments offered by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here.

Pfc. Jonathan Rodriguez of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery at FOB Summerall said he didn't think he would finish. He came in third out of the 12 men from his unit. His motivation was to beat 1st Sgt. Lorenzo Wallace.

"Not bad for an old man," said Wallace, 44, with a smile.

Each Soldier ran for his own reasons. 1st Lt. Andrea Twitchell ran so she could have something to call home about and tell her father, who was running in D.C.

Prizes were handed out to the best runners in each age group.

